

MINUTES OF THE HOWLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Howland Township Board of Trustees held their Regular meeting on June 8, 2016 at 5:00 P.M. at Howland Township Administration Building, 205 Niles-Cortland Rd. N.E., Howland Township, Ohio

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – Present  
Dr James Lapolla – Present  
Matthew G Vansuch- Present

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A motion was made by Dr. James Lapolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to suspend the reading of May 24, 2016 minutes and accept as written.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch –yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to authorize the Fiscal Officer to pay all outstanding invoices incurred and approve all warrants issued.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla - yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-49

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fire Chief James Pantalone, approve to hire Clayton LeJeune and Nathan Novicki as Variable Hour Part-Time Employees at a rate of \$8.53 per hour, with no benefits and scheduled on an “as needed basis”.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch –yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-50

Accept the resignation of Ron Bellus as Part-time Clerk in the Howland Police Department, effective June 17, 2016.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch –yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-51

WHEREAS, the following list of properties have been cited during the month of June, 2016 in violation of the Howland Township Zoning Ordinance Section 8, A-8 Howland Township Resolution 2003-58 (Abate, Control or Removal of Vegetation, Garbage, Refuse or Other Debris), and Howland Township Resolution 2002-93 (Establish Fines) where the yards have not been maintained; and

WHEREAS, Howland Township has received complaints from neighbors of said properties that the condition interferes with the reasonable enjoyment or use of property, and high grass and/or garbage, refuse or debris poses a safety and health threat to the neighborhood. The unsightly appearance of the properties is detrimental to the aesthetic value of the neighborhood and would cause a depreciation of property values; and

WHEREAS, the Howland Township Planning and Zoning Office has not heard from any of the property owners, by telephone or mail.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Howland Township declares and finds the following properties to be a nuisance.

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PARCEL ID</u>
3435 Birchwood Ave.	28-62200
3503 Birchwood Ave.	28-094550
8308 Fairhill Dr.	28-105260
7695 Dawson Drive	28-450950
1696 Genesse Ave.	28-476050
3216 Draper Ave.	28-474900
0 Draper Ave.	28-285602/28-285603
1148 Niles-Cortland Rd NE	28-647950
2033 Stillwagon Rd.	28-404951 (Debris/Rubbish only)

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-52

Approve the transfer of a D1, D2, D3, D3A and D6 liquor permit from Cabaret, Inc., dba Cabaret Lounge to River Road Tavern, LLC, located at 1556 North River Road, Howland Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-53

Authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer within the following fund:

Police Fund 9:  
09-A-07 (Tools & Equip) to 09-A-02A (Reserve Retirement Contr.) \$10,000

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to vote on Resolution 2016-54

Per the recommendation of Administrator Darlene St. George and Fiscal Officer Robert Costello approve to contract with Farmers National Bank as the Township's depository for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

TAX ABATEMENT PRESENTATION: Flex-Struct Inc., 2900 Commonwealth Avenue, N.E.

A motion was made by Dr. James Lapolla and seconded by Matthew Vansuch to vote on Resolution 2016-55

Hereby recommend granting Flex-Strut, Inc., 2900 Commonwealth Avenue, N.E., Howland Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, the following tax abatement:

*60% for 10 years covering new Real Property*

(Resolution attached in its entirety)

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

A motion was made by Matthew Vansuch and seconded by Dr. James Lapolla to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

**Roll Call:** Rick G. Clark – yea  
Dr. James J Lapolla – yea  
Matthew G Vansuch – yea

Summary of Meeting:

Trustee Vansuch: The Howland Community Park Board is seeking a contribution of \$250 to help defray the costs of increased water usage and supplies during the Summer Youth Camps at the park. The Trustees are not in favor of this. Tax dollars support all the programs and that is the purpose of the Township park to be used for recreational purposes. We do not feel that Kent State or the Township should pay for the extra water.

Received a message from a resident who wanted to thank the Fire Department for cleaning up some limbs that had fallen on the roadways during the storm on Monday. She appreciated the rapid response.

Fire Chief James Pantalone: Forty children per day are attending Safety Town. They are learning about pet safety, bus safety and gun safety. The Police Dept. has been in attendance and will be doing some finger printing tomorrow. This is made possible by several businesses in our Township. The Gebhart family and Flex Strut donated funding for snacks during the week. They also received a tee shirt for their attendance.

Police Chief Paul Monroe: With school being out, we are increasing our residential patrols to slow people down. We began active shooter training for the entire department. This addresses scenarios involving school shootings and merchant business shootings.

Public Works Director David McCann: We have begun the summer time operations. We have finished the East Market landscaping. Due to the storm on Monday, some trees were knocked down. We are making a list of calls from anyone who has limb and branches due to the storm. We will start picking up Thursday or Friday.

Zoning Administrator Pete Ross: In the last 30 days 24 permits have been issued at an estimated value of \$546,300. Total fees collected - \$3,108.00

Resident Tim McElhaney, 2061 Stillwagon: How long are you going to cut grass at 2033 Stillwagon which has been cited for debris and the yard not being maintained. I have two grandchildren and I am concerned about the mold in that house. The windows are left open.

Zoning Administrator Pete Ross: On May 25<sup>th</sup> we declared the grass a nuisance. Tonight we declared the debris a nuisance and the Public Works Dept. will deal with that. This house was inspected by the Trumbull County Board of Health on June 22, 2016. On the downside, the

house is in probate and it will be June 29<sup>th</sup> before a decision is made. Whoever is declared the owner will have their due process as far as our attempt to tear it down.

Tim McElhaney: We are going to attend the Trumbull County Board of Health hearing. My concern is all the animal feces and mold in the house. All the windows are open and all the contamination goes into the air.

Trustee Lapolla: We have to follow due process. Unfortunately we have to let the courts make a decision before we can take any action.

Administrator Darlene St. George: Until June 29<sup>th</sup> when the Probate Court decides who is the owner of this property, our hands are pretty much tied. Once a decision is made, then we can cite the owner. You should attend the hearing to let the judge know how bad the situation is.

Police Chief Monroe: Mr. McElhaney what you should understand is if you remember, Mr. Gallagher's home which was down the street. The Township was very diligent working on that. It took 7 years. I don't want you thinking that this will be decided on June 29<sup>th</sup> and on July 1<sup>st</sup> the Township will demo that home. It is a lengthy process for the government to come in and destroy someone's home.

Trustee Vansuch: I would suggest going to the probate hearing and I can't give you any legal advice, but I know based on my experience with probate court, they are always looking for ways to solve problems.

Resident Joe Hlas, 2080 Stillwagon: I live across the street. They raised a pig in the house. The pig has not been outside the house in 4 years. It was neglected and beat on. We rescued this pig because they were leaving it in the house to die. We called the humane officers and Animal Welfare. On a hot day you can get a whiff of the smell coming from that house. The back porch is filled with trash.

Administrator St. George: I think Matt is right. If you go to the probate hearing and you have an opportunity to speak to the judge and make him fully aware of what you are living by. If you make him aware that you are willing to purchase property, it may solve the problem right there. It is a long process. The law is in favor of property owners, as it should be. It is to protect property rights. Your best bet is thru the court as they will make the swiftest decision.

Approved by: Robert Costello Dated: 6/9/16  
Robert Costello, Fiscal Officer

Approved by: Rick G. Clark Dated: 6/9/16  
Rick G. Clark, Chairperson